



**CROWN HILL OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT  
PUBLIC MEETING # 1  
Wednesday, March 22, 2006  
Small Faces Child Development Center**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Staff Members**

**Present:**

Pamela Alspaugh, Project Manager/Sr. Landscape Architect; Shwe-jen Hwang, Landscape Architect; Donald Harris, Property Manager; Jon Martin for Royal Alley Barnes, Parks North Resource Manager; Dennis Cook, Recreation Manager; Bob Baines, Sr. Gardener

**Small Faces Staff  
Members present:**

Lynn Wirta, Director; Barbara Stehman; Derick Williams; Kim Ositis

**Meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting was to present design opportunities for the development of Crown Hill Open Space and to share ideas and listen to the neighbors and communities hopes and concerns for the proposed park.

The meeting was held from 6:30-8:30. About 30 community members attended and most everyone participated in the discussion with lots of questions and comments about the park. It was the first opportunity that the community had to express their ideas for this neighborhood open space.

The focus of the meeting was a presentation that included a site analysis, a potential schematic layout, image boards showing existing conditions and an image board showing art and landscape treatments in other parks. These presentation boards were intended as a starting point to elicit ideas from the community.

The Schematic Layout identified suggested space to be retained by Small Faces, (approximately 23,000SF) and potential park space of about 91,000 SF to be developed as park. The plan included renovation of the existing Little League baseball field, space for 2 U-8 soccer fields on open lawn (without lines or permanent goals), a loop path, a play court, sitting/gathering spaces, a park identity landmark along Holman Road, landscape improvements, bio-swales along both 14<sup>th</sup> Ave NW and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. , and art to be integrated into the park.

The materials proved to be a good catalyst for a broad discussion of the opportunities presented by this project. With the input from this meeting, Parks Landscape Architects will develop plans showing alternatives with associated budgets and come back to the community in late April. At this meeting we will seek to reach consensus of the park elements to be included in the project. After reaching consensus and prioritizing elements, Park Landscape Architects will prepare Design Development Plans and return to the community for one last meeting to review the Plans.

Parks Property Managers will begin negotiating a use agreement for the park after the Seattle School District signals that they are ready to proceed with negotiations. Negotiations will take approximately three months and the project would be bid immediately after an agreement is reached.

Construction will take about three months during which time the area would not be open for use. The renovated ball field would not be open for play until the grass has gone through a full growing season. Funds for this project total \$1,047,879 from the 2000 ProParks Levy.

Many people shared their ideas and concerns and most people were very excited about the development of a park at this location. While many people supported ball play by children and noted the big need for soccer for little kids, most people also wanted to ensure that park would have amenities for a broad range of park uses. Generally most people liked the loop trail, wanted more trees and community spaces. Uses proposed by the meeting attendees included:

- Walking trail
- Picnic space
- Park general landscape with trees
- Sitting space with benches
- Grass and trees for walking, sitting, and enjoying
- Performance space near the building for dance performances and movies
- Wheels trail
- BMX/bike park
- Dog off-leash area
- Team sports field for children 8 & under
- Field turf for sport field to increase use of existing field
- Play court for bike riding/ kids basketball/skate spot
- Gardening space, either p-patch or community gardens
- Safety barrier along Holman Rd.
- Art incorporated into an entry or other areas
- Portable restroom for field use

Concerns that the community voiced include:

- parking; parking is already tight with different activities in the building, classes, school events, public meeting space and with the current ball game schedule. There are currently about 50 on-street parking spaces and 8 off-street spaces. There is no parking on 13<sup>th</sup> NW, where currently people park blocking driveways and mail boxes. Small faces suggested angle parking along 14<sup>th</sup> NW. Some people voice concern that they didn't want green space turning into parking spaces.
- additional soccer games: the community was concerned that two U-8 soccer fields would bring a need for additional parking spaces. The community generally did not want more space, beyond the existing ball field, devoted to sport team activities because they wanted more room for general park use.
- property issues: many people voiced concern over Seattle School District's long term plans for the site. Most wanted the site preserved as open space and wanted the existing uses in the building to remain. They did not want the site developed into commercial or residential uses. One person thought that there was a law that

prevented the school district from selling the property. At least one person did not think the project should go forward and the site should be developed to generate the most revenue for the school district.

- traffic: many people mentioned safety issues related to the speed and volume of traffic on Holman Rd. They felt it was extremely important to provide a strong barrier between the site and the road. They also expressed concern about fast traffic turning onto 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and about safety of people at the bus stop.
- Small Faces: Most, if not all, of the people wanted to ensure that Small Faces retained enough open space to provide the kids in the day care program with enough quality outdoor space. One person has also stated that she is uncomfortable with Small Faces being a private tenant, and felt the building and site use should be a “true public use”.

### **Written Comments:**

1. Neighborhood park with more grass and trees, more community space with picnic areas, benches, one U-8 soccer field, but with field turf to maximize use. A bike park would be great. A walking path and wheels path would be good since this neighborhood has a lot of young kids and seniors that don't want to be run over by bikers and in-line skaters. I think the ball-field must be retained. Small Faces must retain a large play area for the kids. 10,000 SF minimum left is not large enough for a healthy creative play. Fenced off-leash area is a must. Thank you.
2. Yes, play court appeal to multiple users; Soccer fields no striping, no problem; keep the open space, walk on the grass. No need for paths thru the middle; theater in NW corner; don't go overboard on increasing parking; attract walkers; parking only an issue a few days of the year.
3. We would like to see a p-patch garden come to life in the area.
4. Walking path from pedestrian overpass to the school (south entrance); play court/b-ball hoops=yes (there are always kids at Sandel Park playing b-ball); new fence-creative/artistic
5. (with potentially 114,000SF) this is a really important neighborhood parcel, especially with overpass. This space should stay really flexible. Analyze largest scale multi-purpose paved area, what needs are not currently met, especially un-coached and unscheduled, look how close Soundview is. Make multipurpose field maybe plastic, small grass? or real useable grass.; Natural habitat garden with natural drainage, watershed, communication too; bike park-bike track, mtn bike, bmx area; Skatespot; off-leash area; Community Center Public; p-patch like Linden Orchards/ Community gathering space, bridge is great; loopy wavy walls; move sidewalk at Holman;

### **Additional Information is Available:**

- Park web site: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/projects/crownHillPark.htm>
- Pamela Alspaugh, Sr. Landscape Architect; [pamela.alspau@seattle.gov](mailto:pamela.alspau@seattle.gov)